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METALS DIVISION TELEPHONE: (303) 245-3700

B. A. Greene

May 25, 1984

Mr. James W. Smith, Jr., Administrator  
Mineral Resource Development  
and Reclamation Program  
State of Utah  
Oil, Gas and Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

*See yellow highlighted areas  
Hecla Shaft*

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is written in response to your correspondence of May 9, 1984. Messrs. Ron DeHollander, Rich Miller and I were glad to meet with the Division staff, tour the mine sites and discuss the various concerns of the staff on April 10, 1984. For clarity I shall respond using the same headings and numbering system as your letter.

1. La Sal-Snowball Mine

- 1.1 The small diversion channel was excavated in the topsoil in an area covered with vegetation. We plan to reseed the area next fall in order to protect the topsoil from erosion. Vegetation cover should provide adequate protection against erosion for the two foot deep channel.

The pieces of bent steel and old timber have been buried in the waste pile. A trench has been excavated in the waste pile for any future scrap disposal.

- 1.2 Large rocks will be placed strategically to control erosion on the Snowball waste dump. This will be done by July 15, 1984.
- 1.3 The depression in the area above the mine site in the Snowball Canyon will be filled in and graded towards the west in order to provide a straight channel for intermittent water flow. This work will be done by July 15, 1984.
- 1.4 A drainage ditch will be constructed on the north side along the full length of the road in order to divert all water from the hillside away from the road. This project will be done by September 1, 1984.



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### 3. Hecla Shaft

3.1 On May 14, 1984, Umetco Minerals received a cease and desist order from the Utah Water Pollution Control Committee. A meeting is scheduled on May 30 with the Department of Health to discuss the containment pond issue. We will keep you informed of the situation as it develops. However, I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the analyses of the water from the seep next to the pond show that it meets drinking water standards with regard to radium 226 and natural uranium. Therefore, we feel that the groundwater is not being significantly affected by the Hecla mine water discharge.

3.1.1 A fence will be constructed around the ponds as you have recommended. This will be done by June 30, 1984. Special precautions will be taken in order not to disturb the mallard nest at the edge of the pond.

3.2 The abandoned mine water discharge pond area probably will be used in the future for stockpiling ore or low grade material. Therefore, we do not plan to reclaim the area at this time.

3.3 A berm had been constructed along the southern perimeter of the shaft as requested by the Division. However, only very fine material was used in construction and it has washed away in some low spots. Therefore the berm will now be rebuilt and larger rocks will be used in the areas which are subject to erosion. This work will be done by September 1, 1984.

3.4 The trash consists mostly of old timber and bent pieces of steel. It will be buried in a trench at the base of the waste pile by August 30, 1984.

I hope to be able to discuss with you in the near future various disposal methods for old mine timbers, powder boxes and scrap steel.

### 4. Wilson-Silver Bell Mine

Water samples have been collected and copies of the analyses will be forwarded when they become available.

The victaulic pipe used for conveying the water has been extended beyond the waste pile as requested. The pipeline is not blocked. The mine dewatering pumps are connected to water level controls and, therefore, operate only on an intermittent basis.



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5. Deremo Mine

5.1 The recent water analyses from the Peterson Pond indicate elevated levels of radium and natural uranium. As such we plan on reclaiming the pond area as outlined in Mr. B. A. Greene's letter of February 13, 1984. This work will be done by fall so the area can be seeded this season. We will not obtain a notarized letter from the landowner, because the area will be reclaimed and not left as a stock pond.

I hope this letter will clarify the outstanding issues. Messrs. Bruce Greene, Rich Miller and I hope to meet with you and your staff in Salt Lake City in the afternoon of May 30, 1984.

Yours truly,

*Niels B. Haubold*

Niels B. Haubold  
Manager of Mines

NBH:bnw

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